THE GRIDLOCK PROTOCOL ACT

A Bill

To establish an automatic emergency stabilization mechanism activated only upon catastrophic domestic economic collapse, to preserve life, maintain essential systems, stabilize the economy, and enable recovery, while preventing political abuse, corporate exploitation, or permanent consolidation of power.

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TITLE I — SHORT TITLE & PURPOSE

Section 101. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the “Gridlock Protocol Act.”

Section 102. Purpose

This Act establishes a limited emergency mechanism activated only in the event of a verified catastrophic domestic economic collapse, for the purposes of:

1. Preserving life and public order
2. Ensuring continuity of essential services and logistics
3. Providing emergency economic relief to households
4. Sustaining productive capacity and food/energy supply
5. Supporting rehabilitation, innovation, and workforce stability
6. Restoring normal market function and constitutional governance promptly

The Act shall not be used for political convenience, foreign policy leverage, domestic suppression, or military escalation unless directly necessary for life-safety and continuity of essential services.

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TITLE II — DEFINITIONS

Section 201. Definitions

For purposes of this Act:

- “Essential Services” — Food, water, energy, healthcare, housing support, public transport, communications, emergency services.
- “Local Production Credit System (LPCS)” — Temporary state-backed emergency exchange medium tied to essential labor and production.
- “Stabilization Fund (SF)” — Pre-capitalized reserve for emergency actions.
- “NESB” — National Essential Supply Buffer.
- “Critical System Failure” — Breakdown in essential goods distribution or core infrastructure as defined in Annex A.

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TITLE III — EMERGENCY FINANCIAL & SOCIAL STABILITY OFFICE (EFSSO)

Section 301. Establishment

There is established an independent Emergency Financial & Social Stability Office (EFSSO).

Section 302. Composition

EFSSO shall consist of 7 members:
- 2 appointed by Senate majority
- 2 appointed by Senate minority
- 2 appointed by the President
- 1 Chief Stabilization Officer (CSO) elected unanimously by the above 6

Members shall serve staggered 6-year terms.

Section 303. Qualifications

Members must have demonstrated experience in:
- Economic stabilization
- Supply chain logistics
- Public health, emergency management, or infrastructure
- Ethics & non-profit governance

Lobbyists, defense contractors, and major corporate executives are disqualified.

Section 304. Authority Scope

EFSSO may issue orders only within powers granted in this Act.

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TITLE IV — ACTIVATION TRIGGERS & PROCEDURES

Section 401. Activation Requirements

The Gridlock Protocol activates only when ALL conditions in Annex A are met for a period of 14 consecutive days.

Section 402. Verification

- Independent data verification
- Public notice published within 24 hours

Section 403. Prohibited Activations

The Act cannot activate for:
- War threats without domestic collapse
- Financial market volatility alone
- Political standoffs or elections
- Executive request without trigger metrics

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TITLE V — EMERGENCY POWERS & AUTHORITIES

All powers here are temporary, reviewable, and life-safety-limited.

Section 501. Essential Services Guarantee

EFSSO shall ensure baseline access to:
- Food distribution programs
- Emergency housing protections
- Energy and water continuity
- Emergency medical coverage
- Public transit at emergency capacity

Section 502. Emergency Universal Basic Services (EUBS)

Temporary guaranteed support for households in need.

Section 503. Labor & Production Credit System (LPCS)

Temporary credit system for essentials tied to labor contribution and essential production capacity.

Section 504. Debt Moratoriums

Temporary suspension of:
- Evictions for qualifying households
- Debt collection on essential consumer debts
- Small business loan defaults

Landlords and lenders shall receive stabilization compensation where appropriate.

Section 505. Price Stability & Anti-Hoarding

Emergency anti-hoarding and anti-gouging enforcement.

Section 506. National Essential Supply Buffer (NESB)

Release strategic food, fuel, and medical reserves.

Section 507. Supply Chain Control

integrity.

Section 508. Innovation & Workforce Recovery

Rapid grant channels for:

- Local manufacturing restart
- Distributed energy infrastructure
- Agriculture & food production expansion
- Public R&D supporting recovery

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TITLE VI — SAFEGUARDS, OVERSIGHT & RIGHTS

Section 601. Rights Retained

Constitutional rights remain intact; limited operational security zones permitted only when necessary for distribution integrity.

Section 602. Transparency

Public dashboards showing:

- Spending
- Credit issuance
- Contracts
- Resource allocations

Section 603. Independent Oversight Inspector

Emergency Rights Ombudsman appointed and empowered with subpoena authority.

Section 604. Legal Recourse

Citizens may challenge EFSSO actions in expedited courts.

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TITLE VII — SUNSET, DEACTIVATION & RESTORATION

Section 701. Sunset

Emergency powers expire:

- Automatically in 180 days unless renewed by 2/3 Congress vote
- Or by majority EFSSO vote confirming recovery triggers met

Section 702. Transition Off-Ramp

Gradual phase-out of emergency mechanisms:

- Convert LPCS obligations
- Taper support systems
- Restore free market processes

Post-crisis audit & public report required.

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ANNEX A — TRIGGER METRICS

Activation only when ALL below occur:
Category Trigger
Currency Collapse >30% loss vs. basket or domestic inflation shock
Purchasing Power Crash Median real purchasing power <40% baseline
Social/Economic Collapse ≥3 of 5 failures: food, energy, banking, unemployment, logistics
Duration: 14 consecutive days.
Review: 90-day renewal maximum.

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ANNEX B — LIMITED POWERS

EFSSO may not:

- Declare war
- Suspend elections
- Indefinitely detain citizens
- Expand executive authority permanently
- Nationalize industries beyond essential stabilization window
- Suppress peaceful political dissent

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ANNEX C — AUDIT FRAMEWORK

- Real-time financial ledger
- 30-day independent audit cycles
- Criminal penalties for corruption or profiteering

TITLE V — EMERGENCY POWERS & AUTHORITIES

Section 501. Purpose.
The powers in this Title are authorized solely to preserve life, maintain essential services, stabilize supply and production, protect vulnerable populations, and enable rapid rehabilitation and resilient innovation during an activation of the Gridlock Protocol under Title IV. All powers herein are temporary, narrowly-tailored, and subject to the oversight, transparency, and sunset provisions set forth in Title VI and Title VII.

Section 502. Scope Limitations.
(a) Emergency powers shall be used only to the extent necessary to achieve life-safety, public order for distribution of essential goods and services, and economic stabilization.
(b) Emergency powers may not be used for military conquest, foreign projection of force, partisan political advantage, suppression of peaceful dissent, permanent nationalization of industries, or for propaganda purposes. Misuse is penalized under Title VI.

Section 503. Essential Services Guarantee.
(a) EFSSO shall ensure baseline continuity of Essential Services including: food distribution, emergency housing support, potable water, electricity and fuel for critical needs, emergency

baseline levels and regional priorities.

Section 504. Emergency Universal Basic Services (EUBS).
(a) EFSSO may authorize temporary provision or subsidy of basic food, emergency housing vouchers, emergency medical coverage, and emergency childcare for qualifying households for an initial period not to exceed 180 days.
(b) Eligibility standards shall be transparent, with automated enrollment pathways for verified qualifying households to prevent delays.

Section 505. Labor & Production Credit System (LPCS).
(a) EFSSO may establish a temporary, auditable Labor & Production Credit System (LPCS) to facilitate exchange of essential goods and services.
(b) LPCS credits shall be issued primarily for verified labor contributions, productive output in essential sectors, and direct provision of goods to National Essential Supply Buffer (NESB) distribution channels.
(c) LPCS credits are non-speculative: they shall be non-transferable except for transactions involving essential goods/services, and convertible to national currency only under a restoration plan approved by EFSSO and an independent auditor.
(d) All LPCS issuances, ledgers, and conversion rules must be posted publicly in real time.

Section 506. Debt Moratoriums & Housing Protections.
(a) EFSSO may impose a temporary moratorium on evictions for households below statutory income thresholds and on collection of essential consumer debts for an initial period not to exceed 180 days.
(b) A Landlord Stabilization Fund shall provide limited, audited compensation to landlords of qualifying properties to avoid mass market withdrawal.
(c) Small-business credit relief programs may be issued with strict usage audits to preserve local jobs and production.

Section 507. Price Stability, Anti-Hoarding, & Producer Compensation.
(a) EFSSO may impose temporary price ceilings on specified essential goods and services during activation to prevent exploitative pricing.
(b) EFSSO shall establish an Emergency Producer Compensation Mechanism to reimburse legitimate producers for losses directly attributable to statutory price controls, preventing supply withdrawal.
(c) Civil and criminal penalties shall apply to willful hoarding, price-gouging, or fraudulent activity.

Section 508. National Essential Supply Buffer (NESB) & Strategic Releases.
(a) EFSSO is authorized to direct release of food, medical supplies, fuel, and other NESB assets to regions in need and to coordinate replenishment with domestic producers and allied partners.
(b) NESB use shall prioritize distribution to hospitals, shelters, critical infrastructure nodes, and high-need communities.

Section 509. Supply Chain & Logistics Prioritization.
(a) EFSSO may issue temporary, narrowly-tailored priority directives to logistics operators (ports, rail, trucking) to prioritize essential goods movement.
(b) Such directives shall include compensation rules, timelines, and audits to avoid abusive contracting.

Section 510. Rapid Production & Re-tooling Authority.
(a) EFSSO may provide short-term productive credit and fast-track regulatory relief for manufacturers and farms to retool for essential goods production.

Section 511. Emergency Workforce Mobilization & Wage Support.
(a) EFSSO may implement emergency hiring programs to employ displaced workers in recovery projects and to support frontline distribution efforts, with guaranteed minimum wages and protections.
(b) EFSSO may authorize temporary wage subsidies for essential workers to maintain workforce continuity.

Section 512. Financial Stabilization Tools.
(a) EFSSO may access the Stabilization Fund and issue short-term productive credit lines tied to explicit recovery projects; funds shall not be used for speculative financial market operations.
(b) All emergency financial issuances must include an explicit repayment or reconciliation plan and be recorded in the public ledger.

Section 513. Limited Use of Armed Forces & Law Enforcement.
(a) Consistent with Title V-A (Anti-Militarization), armed forces, federalized National Guard units, and law enforcement may be used only to support non-combat life-safety operations: logistics, infrastructure repair, medical transport, and limited protective details where requested by civil authorities and approved pursuant to Title V-A.
(b) Any use of armed personnel for other than life-safety logistics requires prior written EFSSO justification, concurrence from the Secretary of Defense (or Governor for Guard), and judicial approval within 48 hours.

Section 514. Innovation, Research, & Recovery Funding.
(a) EFSSO shall establish rapid-grant channels for resilient infrastructure projects, distributed energy, local food systems, workforce retraining, and public R&D supporting recovery and medium-term resilience.
(b) Grants shall prioritize projects demonstrably increasing domestic productive capacity and reducing future systemic risk.

Section 515. Time Limits, Sunset, & Renewal.
(a) No emergency measure under this Title shall remain in effect beyond 180 days from activation unless extended by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress or by a formal public referendum as outlined in Title VII.
(b) Any single measure within this Title shall include an explicit statutory expiration date and a public exit plan.

Section 516. Transparency, Auditing & Public Reporting.
(a) All emergency orders, contracts, credit issuances, NESB releases, and LPCS ledgers must be posted in real time on a publicly accessible dashboard.
(b) Independent audits shall be performed every 30 days during activation and a comprehensive post-activation audit shall be submitted to Congress within 120 days of deactivation.

Section 517. Accountability & Criminal Remedies.
(a) Intentional misuse, fraud, profiteering, or collusion under these authorities shall be subject to criminal prosecution, civil clawbacks, contract debarment, and removal from office as specified in Title VI.
(b) EFSSO shall establish internal compliance units and external Inspector General review to detect and refer misconduct.

Section 518. Intergovernmental Coordination & Local Implementation.
(a) EFSSO shall coordinate with state, tribal, and local governments and may delegate

(b) Local authorities retain primary responsibility for civil order; EFSSO assistance augments but does not supplant lawful local governance.

Section 519. Non-Discrimination & Civil Rights.
Emergency measures shall be implemented without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or political belief. An Emergency Rights Ombudsman established under Title VI shall receive and adjudicate complaints.

Section 520. Exit & Restoration Planning.
(a) EFSSO must publish an Exit & Restoration Plan within 45 days of activation, including benchmarks for LPCS conversion, debt reconciliation, and return of market responsibilities to standard agencies.
(b) All emergency-initiated contracts, funds, and credits shall include legally binding reconciliation provisions to return temporary measures to peacetime status.

TITLE V-A — PROHIBITION ON MILITARIZATION, SHOW OF FORCE, AND PROPAGANDA USE

Section 501A. Purpose.
This Title ensures the Gridlock Protocol Act shall not be used for intimidation, militarization, propaganda, or political advantage, but solely for stabilization, humanitarian support, and national recovery.

Section 502A. Explicit Prohibition.
No authority granted under this Act may be used to:
(a) Demonstrate or project force against the civilian population;
(b) Conduct, stage, or broadcast a show of force for domestic or foreign influence;
(c) Create propaganda events, rallies, concerts, media spectacles, or public displays exploiting activation of the Gridlock Protocol;
(d) Engage in military influence campaigns or intimidation of citizens, institutions, or political opposition;
(e) Deploy armed personnel except in strict life-safety logistics and when civilian authorities request and courts approve.

Section 503A. Definition of Terms.
For the purposes of this Title:
(1) “Show of Force” means any armed deployment or display not directly tied to immediate life-safety support.
(2) “Propaganda Event” means any performance, rally, media production, or public event primarily designed to glorify state activation or influence political sentiment.
(3) “Life-Safety Logistics” includes only supply transport, infrastructure repair, medical support, and emergency civil defense functions.
(4) “Activation” means any formal invocation of the Gridlock Protocol.

Section 504A. Limited Military Support Exception.
(a) Military or National Guard support is allowed only for:
  (1) food, water, and medicine distribution;
  (2) infrastructure stabilization and repair;
  (3) medical transport and emergency shelter support.
(b) Armed enforcement is prohibited unless:
  (1) requested by state/local civil authority;
  (2) approved by a federal judge within 48 hours;
  (3) limited to life-safety protection.

(a) Any request for armed support must be publicly filed and recorded within 24 hours.
(b) All authorizations and judicial approvals must be accessible to the public in real-time.

Section 506A. Enforcement & Penalties.
(a) Any official who knowingly violates this Title commits a felony and shall face:
(1) up to 15 years imprisonment; and
(2) fines up to $5,000,000; and
(3) removal from office and disqualification from federal service for 20 years.
(b) If harm, death, or coercion occurs as a result of violation:
enhanced penalties up to 25 years imprisonment apply.
(c) All profits or benefits from misconduct shall be forfeited.

Section 507A. Contractor & Third-Party Liability.
Any private entity cooperating in violation of this Title shall face:
(a) forfeiture and clawback of funds involved;
(b) civil penalties up to three times damages;
(c) 10-year federal contract ban.

Section 508A. Whistleblower Protection.
(a) Any person reporting a violation in good faith shall receive federal whistleblower protection.
(b) Retaliation shall constitute a separate federal offense.

Section 509A. Judicial Review.
Federal courts shall have emergency jurisdiction to:
(a) review alleged violations;
(b) issue injunctions stopping prohibited actions;
(c) impose sanctions and orders to enforce compliance.

Section 510A. Supremacy Clause.
Any directive, order, or policy attempting to use this Act for militarization or propaganda is void and unlawful.